14-Points Action Plan at NDC

2640. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of food security was discussed at the meeting of the National Development Council held in May, 2007 in New Delhi;

(b) whether the Prime Minister announced that farm sector will get a Rs. 25,000 crores booster from the Centre over four years and Government's target of agriculture growth will be 4 per cent;

(c) whether NDC also discussed 14-points Action Plan for Centre/States; and

(d) if so, whether Government have spelt out in detail the concrete steps required to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The National Development Council, in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, reaffirmed its commitment to achieve 4 per cent annual growth in the agricultural sector during XI Plan and resolve for 14 steps to be taken by the Central and the State Governments which, among others, included launching a Food Security Mission and a new Additional Central Assistance Scheme.

(d) The Government has approved a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'National Food Security Mission' (NFSM) to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tones, respectively by the year 2011-12. Besides, a new scheme Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has also been approved with an outlay of Rs. 25,000 crores during Eleventh Five Year Plan for holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors in the country.

Demand and supply of milk

†2641. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great difference between the demand of milk and milk products and their supply;

(b) if so, the details during each of the last three years and current financial year; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the action taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) No Sir, the milk production at national level is by and large sufficient to meet the domestic demand of milk and milk products. Government regularly reviews the milk situation in the country & takes appropriate action to ensure availability of adequate quantity of milk to consumers at reasonable price. The statement indicating the milk production during the last three years and current year is as under:-

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Milk Production (Million Tonnes)	%Growth
2004-05	92.5	4.99
2005-06	97.1	4.97
2006-07 (projection)	100.00	2.98

Milk production figures (projection) for the current year have not been finalized.

MRP of generic medicines

2642. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(b) whether MRP of a large number of generic medicines sold to Chemists and other Medical Stores are more than 400 percent of price of medicines supplied to them;

(b) whether Chemist and Medical Stores sell such medicines at MRP and without issuing a valid receipt to customers;

(c) whether Government has no control on fixing rates of such medicines so that the same could reach needy patients at minimum possible prices;

(d) whether Government have come across any connivance or collusion of officials of Drug Control department in letting this malpractice go on for a long time; and

(e) the steps taken to stop this malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) MRP of a large number of generic medicines sold to Chemists and other Medical Stores is more than 400% of price of medicines supplied to them. This happens in the case of generic medicines. In India, Generic medicines are considered to be those which are sold through trade channels without involving medical representatives. The trade margin of these medicines is usually very high to cover the marketing expenses by the traders. It is proposed to streamline the system of trade margins through the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006.

Profit margin of drug manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers is included in the maximum retail price of medicines being sold in the country. Government *vide* notification SO No.946(E) dated 26.6.2006 has made it mandatory to print MRP inclusive of all taxes on the medicines manufactured after 2.10.2006 in respect of indigenous medicines and 1.3.2007 for imported medicines. As a result nobody can sell a medicine at a price higher than printed on its label. Regarding selling of such generic medicines at MRP and without issuing a valid receipt to customers by the Chemist and Medical Stores, no such specific case has been brought to the notice of this Department in the recent past. This issue is under the purview of State Drug Controllers.